## Introduction

Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) is a long-term area-based planning approach to biodiversity conservation in Victoria. It is designed to strengthen alignment, engagement and participation between government, Traditional Owners, non-government agencies and the community.

DELWP Regional staff have been working with stakeholders on actions to conserve biodiversity in specific landscapes, informed by the best available science and local knowledge.

These Fact Sheets capture a point in time, reflecting data and knowledge available in 2020. They provide information for many (but not all) landscapes across Victoria, containing general information on the key values and threats in each area, as well as the priority cost-effective actions that provide the best protection of biodiversity. Fact Sheets are intended to provide useful biodiversity information for the community, non-government and government organisations during project planning and development.

Further information and the [full list of Fact Sheets](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/working-together-for-biodiversity) is available on the Department’s Environment website.

## Landscape description

The Bendigo Creek landscape is 30,642ha in size. The vast majority of the landscape tenure is private. Bendigo Creek is the prominent natural feature that flows through the middle of the area with Tang Tang Swamp and Thunder Swamp present in the western section of the area. Refer to the map at the end of this Fact Sheet.

This landscape has an overlap with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation RSA landscape. For more information, please refer to this Fact Sheet in the [full list of Fact Sheets](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/working-together-for-biodiversity).

## Cultural importance

We recognise that the entire landscape has high cultural value for Traditional Owners. Landscapes identified as having “notable” cultural importance is based on the density of recorded cultural heritage sites and knowledge shared by Traditional Owners. We also recognise that there are locations important to Traditional Owners not within these landscapes.

Notable cultural importance for the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation is Tang Tang Wildlife Reserve (WR) and Thunder WR. All areas on Country are of interest to Dja Dja Wurrung.

## Stakeholder interest

As part of the BRP process, in October 2020 stakeholders were asked to nominate focus landscapes and actions of interest. Loddon Plains Landcare Network, Agriculture Victoria (North Central Irrigation Program), City of Greater Bendigo, Coliban Water, Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung all nominated Bendigo Creek.

Possible future investment/project development in this landscape will be available to any interested stakeholders in addition to those who nominated this landscape.

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| Ecological values identified by Traditional Owners, partners and community within this landscape |
| Revegetation of Djandak with:   * Buwatji (grasses used for grain) * Witji (weaving grasses) * Gatjawil Matorm (tuberous plants with scented flowers) * Murnang (Yam Daisies) including Kangaroo grass, Lomandra and Dianella species, Chocolate Lily, Vanilla Lily, Bulbine Lily and Yam Daisy |
| Wi (cultural fire) authorised and lead by Dja Dja Wurrung on Djandak (Country):   * Dingee - Tang Tang Swamp Block 3 South East * Thunder Swamp * Dingee - Tang Tang Swamp Block 4 North East * Dingee - Tang Tang Swamp BlocK 2 South West |

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|  | Habitat Distribution Models identify nil species with more than 5% of their Victorian range in this landscape  \*The landscape boundaries have been modified since the time of the development of the Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) summary report. Therefore, the SMP data may have slightly altered from the results displayed below. | Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community groups identified the following species of interest within this landscape |
| Plant | Plants | * Spiny Rice-flower * Southern Swainson-pea * Red Swainson-pea * Umbrella Wattle * Small Scurf-pea * Buloke |
| Snake | Reptiles | * Lace Monitor * Stiped Legless Lizard |
| Sparrow | Birds | * Swift Parrot * Brolga * Eastern Great Egret * Grey-crowned Babbler * Baillon's Crake, Hooded Robin |
| Frog | Amphibians | * Brown Toadlet |

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| Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community groups identified the following threats within this landscape |
| Exclusion of Dja Dja Wurrung leadership (governance) |
| Lack of enquiry and understanding of Dja Dja Wurrung customs and practice to provide an enabling and supportive environment so that Djaara can reconnect to land and reconnect stories and knowledge to place. Ask “How?” not “Why?” |
| Lack of listening, hearing and respect for Dja Dja Wurrung ability to talk to Country – not utilising Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge base tools and the bias toward western science decision support tools. |
| Utilising past learnings and achievement to guide future effort – Dja Dja Wurrung participation in past and future biodiversity planning and delivery below the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) level of ‘involve’ does not support Dja Dja Wurrung aspirations |

## Strategic Management Prospects

Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) models biodiversity values such as species habitat distribution, landscape-scale threats and highlights the most cost-effective actions for specific locations. More information about SMP is available in [NatureKit](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit).

## Additional threats

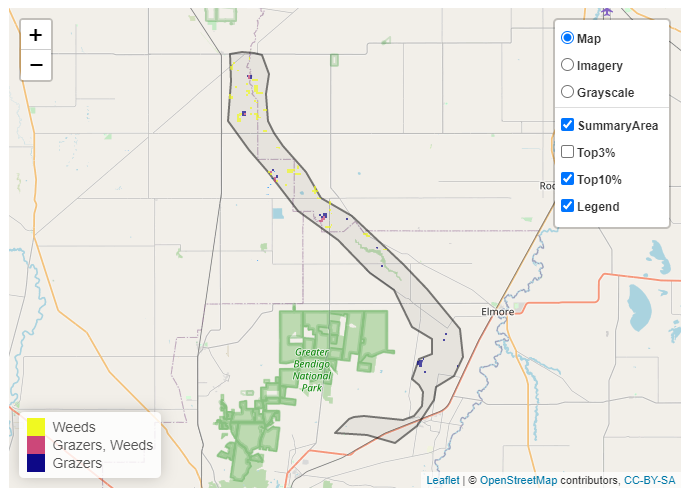
Threats identified (in addition to those modelled in SMP) through the consultation process were:

* alterations to hydrology
* land salinisation
* soil erosion
* habitat degradation due to extremes of climate and weather and lack of regeneration in some vegetation communities
* recreational activities causing fragmentation
* loss of vegetation, and erosion
* legacy use of public land
* private land use impacting biodiversity
* inappropriate land use planning
* inappropriate fire regimes (planned burning and bushfires)

Some individual threatened species may also require targeted intervention, beyond actions to manage landscape-scale threats, to improve their future prospects.

## Which landscape-scale actions are most cost-effective in this landscape?\*\*

The coloured areas indicate where the identified landscape-scale actions and locations are most cost-effective and will maximise biodiversity benefit across Victoria for multiple species.

The SMP priority actions which rank among the top 10% for cost-effectiveness of that action across Victoria for much of the landscape are in order of the top 3 actions, see map and list below:

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| Grain | Control weeds 602ha |
| Rabbit | Control rabbits 248ha |
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\*\*The landscape boundaries have been modified since the time of the development of the SMP summary report. Therefore, the SMP data may have slightly altered from the results displayed above.

Of the top 10% of cost-effective actions, controlling weeds provides the most cost-effective biodiversity benefits when considering all flora and fauna.

From the nomination process the following additional actions were also suggested for this landscape: domestic grazing control, revegetation, permanent protection, cultural fire and protecting remnant vegetation.

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| The most cost-effective action for flora and fauna\*\* | |
| SnakePlant | Plants, reptiles - Control weeds |
| FrogSparrowRat | Mammals, birds, amphibians - Control rabbits |

\*\* The landscape boundaries have been modified since the time of the development of the SMP summary report. Therefore, the SMP data may have slightly altered from the results displayed above.

For a further in depth look into SMP for this landscape please refer to [NatureKit](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit).

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